

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CDR JCRC BARBERS POING HI IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233886

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMCONSUL UDORN 6066 P 210228Z SEP 76 ACTION AMEMBASS
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BANGKOK INFO SECSTATE AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 6066

SECSTATE ATTN: FRANK SIEVERTS OHA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR

SUBJECT: MIA WIFE BOYLES INTERVIEWS PL DEFECTOR

1, MIA WIFE MRS MARY BOYLES, ACCOMPANIED BY 21 YR OLD SON
MARK, ARRIVED UDORN SEPTEMBER 15 TO INTERVIEW PATHET LAO
(PL) DEFECTOR MAJOR SIMMA OUTHAMONTI (FORMERLY KNOWN AS MAJOR
SIMMA PANSUYIYAWONGSE) IN HOPES OF SECURING INFORMATION ABOUT
FATE OF HER HUSBAND, RETIRED AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT COLONEL
HOWARD BOYLES WHO HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE FEBRUARY 1973 WHEN
C-123 HE WAS PILOTING FOR AIR AMERICA WAS SHOT DOWN NEAR
THAKHEK, LAOS.

2. MRS BOYLES SOUGHT ASSISTANCE OF CONSULATE'S LAO SPEAK-
ING USAID REFUGEE OFFICER, WHO WAS SENIOR US REPRESENTATIVE
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IN UDORN AT TIME OF HER VISIT TO QUESTION MAJOR SIMMA WHO IS

IN NONG KHAI REFUGEE CAMP 50 KILOMETERS NORTH OF UDORN.
DURING MRS BOYLES' VISIT CONSUL WAS TRAVELLING ON OFFICIAL
BUSINESS IN LOEI PROVINCE AND VICE CONSUL WAS ON LEAVE.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 17 MRS BOYLES, SON MARK AND USAID OFFICER
TRAVELLED TO NONG KHAI TO INTERVIEW MAJOR SIMMA, HE WAS
UNABLE TO PROVIDE HER WITH ANY USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT HER
HUSBAND.

4. HOWEVER, DURING COURSE OF INTERVIEW, WHICH MRS BOYLES
RECORDED ON CASSETTE TAPE, MAJOR SIMMA CLAIMED THAT WHILE HE
WAS A PRISONER IN PL PRISON CAMP IN SOUTHERN LAOS HE SAW
FIFTEEN (15) US POWS IN HIS CAMP AS LATE AS JUNE 1973. HE
ADDED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY CAPTURED THREE (3) OF THESE
PRISONERS FROM A DOWNED USAF F105 NEAR THAKHET, LAOS IN
AUGUST 1971. HE STATED THAT IN JULY 1973 HE MANAGED TO
ESCAPE FROM CAMP AND DEFECT TO ROYAL LAOTIAN ARMY. AFTER
COMMUNIST TAKEOVER HE FLED LAOS ENTERING NONG KHAI REFUGEE
CAMP IN MAY 1975. (IN BANGKOK POST FEATURE NEWS STORY
SEPTEMBER 24, 1973 MAJOR SIMMA IS REPORTED AS STATING THAT
HE WAS IMPRISONED BY PL IN LAK KHETMO JAIL IN ATTAPEU PRO-
VINCE DURING FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1973 ON CHARGES OF TREASON
AND DESERTION).

5. MRS BOYLES DEPARTED UDORN SEPTEMBER 19 FOR BANGKOK WHERE
SHE PLANS TO SPEND SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE LEAVING FOR US.
SHE REPORTEDLY PLANS TO VISIT JCRC REPRESENTATIVES IN HAWAII
ENROUTE. USAID OFFICER WHO ASSISTED MRS BOYLES SAID THAT
WHILE SHE WAS CRITICAL OF USG EFFORTS TO FOLLOW UP MIA IN-
FORMATION SHE DID NOT APPEAR TO HIM TO BE AN UNREASONABLE
OR IRRESPONSIBLE PERSON. NONETHELESS WE THINK THAT SHE MAY
BE STRONGLY TEMPTED UPON HER RETURN TO US TO USE MAJOR SIMMA'S
RECORDED STATEMENT TO DRAMATIZE IN SOME FASHION HER CRITICISM
OF USG PERFORMANCE IN MIA ISSUE. IF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS
ITSELF JCRC REPRESENTATIVES MAY WANT TO COUNSEL HER TO AVOID
TAKING SUCH ACTION, PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF MAJOR
SIMMA'S CLAIM.

6. CONSUL WILL BE TRAVELLING TO NONG KHAI ON OFFICIAL BUS-
INESS SEPTEMBER 22 SHOULD ADDRESSEE POST DESIRE I WILL BE
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HAPPY TO TRY TO QUESTION MAJOR SIMMA FURTHER REGARDING HIS
CLAIM OF US POW SIGHTING MADE TO MRS BOYLES. FINNEY
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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